



Appendix 4
Newsletter



Passion for Progress...

An Open Letter to the Community & the CRS Cluster 4 Board

As this phase of the Community Reinvestment Strategy comes to a close, I wanted to share my appreciation of the hard work and dedication exhibited by Cluster 4 board members and stakeholders. It was a true pleasure to work with so many outstanding individuals. Special thanks go out to Jeffery Jones for his excellent leadership; to our fantastic community organizer, Bobby Joe Stovall; to the collective team of Hamilton Anderson, Zachary & Associates, the Detroit Design Collaborative, and H.Smith & Associates for their superb technical assistance; to Penney Bailer and the Michigan Metro Girl Scouts for providing our meeting space—complete with food and cookies, over the past year; and to the entire board and all our stakeholders for their insight and vision that helped create a solid reinvestment plan that can truly transform our neighborhoods and core city. We should all be proud of the work we've accomplished to date.

After December '97, final reports for all clusters will be distributed to the following entities: A complete set of all 10 cluster reports and city wide summary will be at the "Main" Detroit Public Library. Individual cluster reports will be at ALL branch libraries in their respective clusters. For example, Cluster 4's report will be at every branch in Cluster 4. The CRS city-wide summary report will be more widely distributed throughout the community; to City Department Heads, Detroit City Council, City Planning Commission, and Neighborhood Development Commission and will indicate how to obtain individual cluster reports.

Because of the momentum generated by the CRS process, we are looking for various ways to encourage continued community outreach and participation. The CRS 24-Hour Hotline will be maintained at least until the first quarter of '98. So please continue to call for update information.

At our December meeting with Mayor Archer, he indicated he would be taking recommendations from the community for ways of continuing participation in Detroit's revitalization process. As part of the CRS Core Staff, these are some of the recommendations we will be forwarding to the administration:

- ♦ In addition to maintaining the 24-Hour CRS Hotline, we should keep the CRS Website
- ♦ Written updates on CRS should be provided to areas and persons at: Neighborhood City Halls, Police Community Meetings, City & Municipal Libraries, Editors of Community Newsletters, Mayor's Executive Staff Members, and City of Detroit Department Heads.
- ♦ Provide CRS information/updates at Town Hall Meetings and at the Mayor's community meetings.
- ♦ Community updates on neighborhood development projects should be prepared for editors of community newsletters.
- ♦ Cluster Board members should receive notification of public hearings, projects and funding initiatives, ie, NOF and CDBG funds and linked to other community activities.

In closing, I'll leave you my reflection of the past year. It was, at times, quite challenging, but we all hung in and worked hard. Now I am eagerly looking to the future to see the fruits of our labor take hold and grow - because of a foundation we've helped to lay. So I'll leave you with a quote, the CRS staff adopted - "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Wishing You Peace & A Prosperous '98

Beverly E. Means - CRS Resource Manager

Detroit's Resurgence Mode: How Her Rebirth Impacts Our Neighborhood

by Stephen O. McCoy

Working with the CRS 4 Cluster Board has been a challenging and welcomed civic endeavor. Although we Board Members and other stakeholders have accomplished a lot by way of assessing where we are and determining where it is we want to go, a great deal of work remains.

As a resident of one of our city's and nation's most economically depressed communities, I am more than anxious to see our finalized neighborhood cluster report/recommendations for comprehensive reinvestment. Cluster 4 has a number of different neighborhoods within its boundaries. A fleeting thought that crosses my mind far too often, is that my community may still suffer from disinvestment and displacement brought on by industrial expansion, specifically, and spiraling real estate cost, generally. Unfortunately the space allotted to me is too limited to explore all of these facts and the reasoning which fuels my skepticism. However, at the core of my rationale is the knowledge of depressed housing values in areas that are in prime locations.

COMMITTEE REPORT

by Mary Lewis

I have I greatly enjoyed being a board member of the Community Reinvestment Strategy (CRS), Cluster 4. I feel I am a participating and contributing member of the planning and redevelopment of Detroit. Viewing some of the present and future projects and adding input into what I see as desirable and essential programs and projects in our community has been my civic duty and a rewarding experience.

I became a participant in the Youth Development Committee because I know children are our future. I can personally testify to the fact that programs and services are seriously lacking in our community. I am grateful to be able to identify and offer recommendations along with other Stakeholders for changes and to focus on and incorporate innovative ideas.

The recommendations of Cluster 4 are the voice of our community which knows intrinsically the needs of a new Detroit.

All too often, we see housing being demolished with no strategy or plan to replace it. The people aren't going anywhere; consequently, there is a rise in overcrowding and homelessness. An unfriendly, if not hostile, local bureaucracy makes it very difficult to obtain the housing for rehabilitation or to build new affordable housing.

In conclusion, I pray that what I think I see is not there at all. Under the light, business and government will partner with our community to address past economic exclusion and racial discrimination. Together, we will work to bring in investment dollars for local business retention and start ups. A Home Ownership Zone will be officially established in the North End and will result in the construction, development and sale of new and rehabilitated homes to accommodate all income levels. We will enjoy safe streets and an improved quality life for ourselves and the generations yet to be born.

Cluster 4 Asset Profile

How well do you know the assets of your neighborhood? This information is included in the Cluster 4 Final report, along with the strategies developed by Cluster 4 board members and stakeholders for addressing the goal statements found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Cluster 4 Technical Assistance Team has assembled a voluminous document describing the entire Cluster 4 area. The document, available for review at your Neighborhood City Hall and the CRS Cluster 4 office, includes information about housing, land uses, the environment, commercial centers, employment, youth activities and transportation.

Developed for use by the community, organizations undertaking projects in Cluster 4 will find the demographic information, numerous maps, organizational profiles and focus group notes to be highly valuable.

Neighborhood Commercial Goal Statement

Create an environment which encourages the development of strong commercial areas.

1. Support micro and small business development.
2. Support a Government Center Complex concept as currently proposed.
3. Encourage the creation of jobs in occupational high growth fields.

Special Issues Goal Statements

Encourage the development and support of cultural and entertainment centers within the Cluster.

1. Create a 24 hour city.
2. Create pedestrian-friendly streets in the Cultural Area as well as on all of Woodward.
3. Integrate neighborhood entertainment and cultural opportunities into existing and future development entities.

Involve more segments of the community in creating quality living environments.

1. Improve infrastructure - streets, lighting, public utilities, and public facilities.
2. Encourage partnerships that build and rebuild housing and commercial development.
3. Identify locations, secure land and create more parks.



DECEMBER, 1997

Chairman's Corner

by Jeffery W. Jones

The purpose of this article is to provide an up to date review of where we are with Community Reinvestment Strategy (CRS), Cluster 4 Neighborhood Plan. The CRS process was long, thorough and complete requiring the commitment of CRS board members, stakeholders, a technical assistance team and staff to dedicate thousands of meeting hours. During the 12 month process Board, Sub Committee, Focus Group, Visioning Sessions and Special Meetings were held. Each person spent their valuable time and energy in collaboration with others to conceive Cluster 4's Neighborhood Plan.

The Plan represents the opportunity community folks exercised to influence the future shaping of their neighborhood and community. This rare opportunity may not avail itself to our communities for another 50 years. Therefore, this Board seriously considered all input, existing plans, collected data, and dealt with controversial issues as needed to develop this proposed plan we are submitting to the Mayor on behalf of Cluster 4's Board and Stakeholders.

Let me conclude by saying that our strategic plan is controversial, it's challenging and represents a community-driven guide for Cluster 4.

Cluster 4 Board Members would like to thank Beverly Means, CRS Core Staff person; Technical Assistance Team members Hamilton Anderson and Associates, Zachary and Associates, Smith and Associates, Detroit Collaborative Design Center and Bobby Joe Stovall, Community Organizer.

Cluster 4 Board Members

Jeffery Jones *Chair*
Penny Bailer
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Shirley Wells
Alvin Wigley
Eric Williams



Community Organizer Bobby Joe Stovall CRS Staff Beverly Means Newsletter Editor Diane V.B. Jones

CRS Hotline - 438-0649

Technical Assistance Team Report

This newsletter has been produced for the purpose of informing the larger public about the efforts of the CRS process. Board Members, stakeholders and the Technical Assistance Team worked together to develop and recommend goals and objectives which can help shape the future vision for the area within Cluster 4.

The Technical Assistance Team (TAT) was selected by Cluster Board members to support the Cluster 4 board activities by providing the technical support required to develop surveys and recommendations in conjunction with community output. The Technical Assistance Team consisted of four Detroit firms:

Hamilton Anderson and Associates
Zachary and Associates, Inc.
Detroit Collaborative Design Center
H. Smith and Associates

The Cluster 4 Board shown at the left represents residents, community leaders, business owners, school leaders, and non-profit agencies with a **passion for progress** who were encouraged to become involved in the CRS process at a meeting held in February, 1997.

We wish to thank all community members who gave a tremendous amount of time and energy attending monthly meetings, focus groups, and planning sessions. We also want to thank survey takers and volunteers.

Cluster 4's Goals, Objectives and Recommendations will be presented and approved at the final Cluster 4 Board meeting on December 17, 1997. Copies will be available in January. Call the CRS Hotline (438-0649) for information.